THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Three elderly couples were murdered in Delhi between 1st January, 2004 and 15th November, 2004. Five persons suspected to be involved in two of these cases have been arrested. No one has been arrested in the third case so far.

(c) The steps taken for security of elderly people (senior citizens) living in Delhi include identification of elderly people living alone; verification of antecedents of their employees, particularly domestic servants and drivers; periodic visits to the residences of elderly persons by the Beat Staff, Station House Officers and Division Officers; setting up of a Senior Citizen Security Cell in the Crime Branch under the Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime); contacting the senior citizens by the officers of the Senior Citizen Security Cell to give them emotional support and to create a sense of security; briefing them about security devices and security related issues; making available telephone numbers of Helplines for use in case of emergency; and organizing security awareness camps for the benefit of senior citizens.

Compensation to disabled soldiers

*6. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported in the media, it is a fact that 40 thousand soldiers who were injured in battlefield have not got compensation as given to others;

(b) whether there was any representation from such groups of soldiers; and

(c) how far Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Services give help or benefits to such disabled soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The soldiers injured in battlefied are treated as Battle Casualties and granted War Injury Pension. Disabled soldiers (Battle Casualties) of all operations (excluding Operation Vijay—Kargil) invalided/boarded out/ prematurely released from service in low medical category are entitled to one time *ex-gratia* grant of Rs. One lakh. The disabled soldiers injured during Operation Vijay Kargil were entitled to *ex-gratia* payment from National Defence Fund ranging from Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs depending

upon the percentage of disability. Besides, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs in case of each invalided/discharged officer and Rupees 2.5 lakhs in case of each Junior Commissioned Officer/Other Ranks having 100% disability are paid from Army Group Insurance Fund. The above amount is proportionately reduced up to 20% disability.

(b) Yes; Sir.

(c) War Disabled members of Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme will have free medical care for rest of their lives by making one time contribution which may be paid in three consecutive instalments.

Measures to improve standard of sports

†*7. SHRI RAJ MOHINDR SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate measures are not being taken to improve the standard of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to ever increasing influence of politics and commercialization in the field of sports, problems are being faced to improve the standard of sports; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) The development of sports is primarily the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federations. Moreover, the "Sports" is a State subject. However, Government of India plays a facilitating and promotional role. For further improving the standard of sports, the National Sports Policy, 2001 has identified "broadbasing of sports" and "achieving excellence" as the two major strategies and efforts have been made to improve the standard of sports in the country. A number of Sports

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.